

Arts in the Parks

Shades State Park Property Profile

Website: <http://www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/2970.htm>

Key Messages/Stories:

- Shades State Park was established in 1947. It encompasses more than three thousand acres of both mature and young forests, and houses the only stand of native white pine trees in the state. It includes two nature preserves: Pedestal Rock and Pine Hills.
- Many Native American legends are told about The Shades that include epic battles and shadowy deaths. These legends say that the land was home to a large Piankeshaw village, a subset of the Miami tribe.
- The area was settled in 1824, after the Miami tribe ceded the land. By 1846 all of the land that would become Shades State Park was owned by various individuals. Of note was Joel G. Deer. He and several colleagues eventually formed the Garland Dells Mineral Association, which built an inn and marketed The Shades as a resort for both health and recreation.
- The many springs in the park were named, the three most popular of which were Health, Youth and Beauty, whose waters were said to confer those attributes on the drinkers. Joseph Frisz bought into the Association in 1909 and owned all of the land by 1916. He continued to develop and market this resort property, carefully conserving this beautiful natural area. The resort foundered during The Great Depression. After Frisz's death the land was nearly sold to a whiskey barrel manufacturing firm, but was finally saved through a collaboration of fund raising schemes and the participation of The American Legion and made into Indiana's 12th state park.
- Shades State Park has been called The Little Yosemite of Indiana. With nearly two hundred foot relief and two major waterfalls, as well as many smaller ones, Shades offers the most rugged hiking in the state. Hikers traverse narrow backbones of sandstone jutting dozens of feet into the air. A variety of rare plants and animals call Shades home.

Top Five Things to Do:

- Hike rugged Trail 1 past the Devil's Punchbowl to Silver Cascades, a rare convex waterfall.
- Bring a canoe (or rent one) and explore Sugar Creek. Camp along the way in the Canoe Campground.
- Come to a weekend interpretive program to learn about nature and have fun with a naturalist.
- Go backpacking on our backpack trail and camp out under the stars.
- Stay up late for telescope stargazing in the darkest public skies remaining in Indiana.

Lodging:

- Class B camping: 104 primitive sites with access to a modern restroom facility
- Youth Tent area: 30 per site, 5 sites, vault toilets
- Canoe Campground: 10 sites, vault toilets
- Backpack Campground: 7 sites, vault toilets



General visitor profile: Campers (weekends or weeklong); day-users for picnics, special events and hiking; fishermen; canoers and kayakers; scout and other groups for volunteer service.

Potential arts venues:

- 100-seat amphitheater near the campground with extremely limited parking, electricity available, small uncovered stage
- Various shelter houses:
 - Dell Shelter: Open on 4 sides, no electric, adequate parking, 36 person capacity, vault toilets nearby.
 - Hickory Shelter: Open on 4 sides, electric, modern restroom nearby, 36 person capacity.
 - Pine Shelter: Open on 4 sides, no electric, vault toilet nearby, limited parking

Visitation in FY2014: 200,000

Nearby Communities: Marshall, Rockville, Cayuga, Crawfordsville, Greencastle, Montezuma, Mecca, Waveland

Please email questions to Artsintheparks@dnr.IN.gov.

